

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SOE-02 AF-10

ARA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-10 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02

PA-01 DOE-15 SAS-02 CEQ-01 OES-09 SS-15 ICA-11

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3540

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 12947

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, US, UR

SUBJECT: US-USSR ARMS CONTROL WORKING GROUP, FIFTH ROUND
SEVENTH MEETING, AUG. 24, 1978

RW MESSAGE NO. 10

1. SEVENTH MEETING OF ROUND FIVE OF US-USSR WORKING GROUP
ON RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS AND NEW WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUC-
TION WAS HELD AT SOVIET MISSION ON AUG. 24.

2. AMB. LIKHATCHEV (HEAD OF SOV DEL) OPENED SESSION WITH
OBSERVATION THAT "THE FORMULATIONS ON ARTICLES I, IV, AND
V ARE SO CLOSE THAT THE TWO SIDES WILL APPARENTLY HAVE NO
DIFFICULTY IN ARRIVING AT MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS",
BUT THAT PROBLEMS REMAINED WITH ARTICLES II AND III.

3. WITH RESPECT TO WORD "WEAPON" AT THE BEGINNING OF PARA
1, ARTICLE II, LIKHATCHEV NOTED US HAD PREVIOUSLY PROPOS-
ED FORMULA "WEAPON, EQUIPMENT OR DEVICE" AND AGAIN EX-
PRESSED VIEW THAT "EQUIPMENT OR DEVICE" DOES NOT COVER
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SOME POSSIBLE TYPES OF RW, SUCH AS ARTILLERY, SHELLS, WAR-
HEADS OR AERIAL BOMBS WHICH COULD DISSEMINATE RADIOACTIVE
MATERIAL WITH AID OF CONVENTIONAL EXPLOSIVES AND THAT
SOVIET PROPOSAL TO RETAIN WORD "WEAPON" WAS AIMED AT CLOS-
ING ALL LOOPHOLES. HE THEN NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THAT
US HAD ACKNOWLEDGED INSUFFICIENCY OF THE TERM "DISSEMINA-
TION" AND REQUESTED CONFIRMATION OF SOV DEL'S UNDERSTAND-

ING THAT US PROPOSED PHRASE "DELIVERY OR DISSEMINATION"
MEANT THE EQUIPMENT OR DEVICE MUST BE DESIGNED EITHER FOR
DELIVERY OR FOR DISSEMINATION OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL,
I.E., BOTH CHARACTERISTICS NEED NOT BE PRESENT AT SAME
TIME.

4. TURNING TO ARTICLE III, LIKHATCHEV REVIEWED THE HISTORY
OF THE FORMULATIONS AND STATED ARGUMENT THAT IT IS DIFFI-
CULT TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED" AND
"NOT SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED" MATERIAL. HE ALSO ASKED IF
CURRENT US PROPOSAL PROHIBITED UNPREMEDITATED USE OF
RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL (E.G., AN ACCIDENT) OR DELIBERATE USE
NOT IN THE FORM OF A WEAPON.

5. AMB. FISHER, IN PRELIMINARY RESPONSE TO LIKHATCHEV'S
QUESTIONS, STATED THAT ELEMENT 3 WAS NOT CONCERNED WITH
ACCIDENTS, BUT WITH SUCH POSSIBILITIES AS USE OF RADIO-
ACTIVE WASTE MATERIAL PRODUCED BY MILITARY RESEARCH
REACTORS OR SUBMARINE PROPULSION REACTORS. COMMENTING ON
ELEMENT 2, FISHER OBSERVED THAT THE ITEMS CITED BY SOVDEL
(ARTILLERY SHELLS, WARHEADS, BOMBS) COULD BE CONSIDERED
EQUIPMENT OR DEVICES. AMB. FISHER CONCLUDED BY STATING
THAT US WOULD CAREFULLY STUDY SOV STATEMENT.

6. DEL'S RECOMMENDATIONS WILL FOLLOW SEPTTEL.

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7. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 30.

VANDEN HEUVEL

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